

ABSTRACT

A photovoltaic apparatus includes a plurality of approximately spherical photoelectric conversion elements including a second semiconductor layer located outside a first semiconductor layer, for generating photoelectromotive force therebetween. The second semiconductor layer has an opening through which part of the first semiconductor layer is exposed. The apparatus also includes a support having first and second conductors and an insulator disposed between the conductors for electrically insulating the conductors from each other.

10 The support has recesses adjacent to each other, the inside surfaces of which are constituted by the first conductor. The photoelectric conversion elements are disposed in respective recesses so that the elements are illuminated with light reflected by part of the first conductor that constitutes the recess. The first conductor is electrically connected to the second semiconductor layers of the

15 photoelectric conversion elements, and the second conductor is electrically connected to the exposed portions of the first semiconductor layers.